ग्रेड); किन्नौर जिले में 1.25 मिलियन टन जिप्सम; मण्डी जिले में 7.5 मिलियन टन रॉक-साल्ट तथा कांगड़ा और चम्बा जिलों में 22.2 मि० टन रूफिंग स्लेट के भंडारों की पुष्टि की गई है ।

(ख) तांबे के लिए सर्वेक्षण और गवेषण का काम भारतीय भूवैज्ञानिक सर्वेक्षण द्वारा 1988–89 में आरम्भ किया गया था । नरशा, पार्वती घाटी, कुल्लु जिले में अभी भी चल रहा है ।

(ग) 1991-92 के दौरान इस क्षेत्र में सर्वेक्षण पर 248,288 रु० खर्च किए गए । चालू वित्त वर्ष 1992–93 के दौरान लगभग 9,25,000 रु० खर्च किये जाने की संभावना है ।

(घ) प्रारम्भिक गवेषण रिपोर्ट से नरशा घाटी में 200 मी० लम्बे क्षेत्र में 0.86 से 1.95 मी० की चौड़ाई पर 0.17% से 2.44% तांबा खनिज का पता चला है । यहां आगे कार्य चल रहा है और इसके 1994 तक पूरा होने की संभावना है ।

Mineral Deposits in Arunachal Pradesh

1721. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large deposits of coal, iron, limestone, mica and uranium have been descovered in Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the grade of the deposits and its estimated quantity; and

(c) by when Governemnt propose to undertake mining of those mineral deposits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c) Deposits of coal and limestone have been discovered in Arunachal Pradesh Geological Survey of India has estimated the recoverable reserves of coal as on 1-1-90 to be of the order of 31 million tonnes, 11 million tonnes and 48 million tonnes in proved, probable and possible categories respectively. The recoverable reserves of limestone as on 1-1-85 were reported to be 108 million tonnes in possible category.

Mining of these deposits can be taken up only after grades of these minerals have been determined and the size of their reserves firmed up on the basis of detailed prospecting of the area. As per provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957, the State Government can take up such detailed prospecting on its own or issue licences for this purpose.

New Mineral Development Policy

1722. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are formulting a New Mineral Development Policy for the 8th Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, what are the details there-of;

(c) the present status of the proposal and areas identified for private participation investment; and

(d) the redeeming features of the new Policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (d) The National Mineral Policy announced in 1990 will hold good, by and large, for the 8th Five Year Plan. It is, however, being reviewed especially in regard to (a) the need for reservation of the exploitation of certain mineral resources for the public sector; (b) the extent of foreign participation permissible in the mineral sector.